Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, The state of South Dakota calls on the President, Secretary of State, and Secretary of Defense to consistently raise with foreign counterparts the need for increased action to help account for our missing – alive and dead – and return them to the United States; and,

Whereas, The state of South Dakota commends and endorses the national commitment to account, as fully as possible, for Americans still missing from our nation's wars; and,

Whereas, Our Nation maintains a solemn commitment to leave no service member behind. Nearly 1,700 Americans are missing from the Vietnam War, approximately 8,000 unaccounted for from the Korean War, 120 from the Cold War, over 78,000 from WWII, 1 MIA in Iraq, and 1 POW in Afghanistan; and,

Whereas, Their families, friends, and other concerned Americans still must deal with uncertainty concerning their fates; and,

Whereas, The Obama Administration recently has reinforced its commitment to maintaining POW/MIA accounting as a priority of the United States, though concerns remain about adequate funding and personnel; and,

Whereas, U.S. Government intelligence and other evidence indicate that most countries in which U.S. losses occurred could provide greater assistance to answer questions about missing Americans; and,

Whereas, The state of South Dakota calls on Congress to ensure that POW/MIA-related government offices and organizations receive the funding and personnel necessary to accomplish the principled mission of accounting for our missing veterans, thus signaling nations around the world that America stands behind those who serve:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim September 16, 2011, as

POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

in the state of South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Thirty-first Day of August in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eleven.

Dennis Daugaard

Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Judy A. Larson Exec. Asst.

Jason M. Gant, Secretary of State